

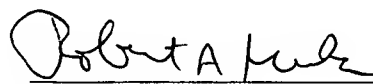
REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1-8 were allowed over the prior art of record, claims 9-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,128,481 (Houde), and claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,727,057 (Emery). By this amendment, Applicant has herein canceled claims 9-18. Thus, claims 1-8 are pending.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request a Notice Of Allowance for the pending claims in the present application. If the Examiner is of the opinion that the present application is in condition for disposition other than allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below in order that the Examiner's concerns may be expeditiously addressed.

Respectfully submitted,



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